

The organizations of professional nurses, like many a medical society, have also the same weakness. They are liable to get under the control of ambitious persons who desire to shine before the public. What is worse, these "leaders" are saturated with a "will-o'-the-wisp" idealism which is pure moonshine, shrouded by intellectual cloudiness.

To return to that fundamental question—Does the professional nurse require a more or less profound education in the scientific bases of medicine in connection with an exact training in practical routine? If so, how much, and where is the nurse to get that scientific instruction? Certainly not in any of the existing training-schools as now organized. The "probation course" of two, three, or six months, or even a year, generally demanded is of little or no use except to obtain a very general idea of the student's fitness, physical more than mental. It is largely comparable to the "one-year's reading with some practitioner," now traditional, that formerly prevailed in our medical education. If the medical profession and public service require scientifically educated nurses, then that education must and should be given in institutions entirely free from any hospital connections, and should be free. In other words, the respective States should establish a State normal or preparatory school for nurses where these fundamentals and all laboratory drilling should be taught. The term should be of two-years' duration, with three months' vacation between the first and second year. Graduated students should then be apportioned out to the respective public hospitals and institutions for another term of two years. Finally, on receiving a certificate of competency from the hospital the student-nurses should be examined by a State board, registered, and given their diploma of competency. While private or semi-public (endowed) hospitals might have the privilege of employing uncertified attendants, they should be strictly forbidden issuing any certificates indicating any kind of proficiency to any such employes, and if requiring "professional" nurses should be obliged to apply to the State Board of Registration for them. Complaints as to unfitness or improper conduct of registered nurses should be made to the State Board of Registration, which should have the power to place the nurse on "probation," or withdraw a certificate altogether in warranted cases.—MENICKS, in *Medical Record*.



THE ALUMNÆ ASSOCIATION OF THE TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL TRAINING-SCHOOL FOR NURSES.—Conforming with the expressed wishes of many of the members that the association should adopt a distinctive emblem and embody the same in a brooch-pin, the special committee appointed, after availing itself of the best authorities, decided to adopt the pomegranate, with the motto "Ut prosim," as best expressing the ideals of the nursing profession.

The pomegranate since early days has been used in medicine and is also emblematical of good works. With the motto "Ut prosim" ("That I may be of service") the design is particularly appropriate for a nurses' association.

This brooch is made of solid gold and carmine red enamel representing a half section of the pomegranate, the seeds of the fruit showing in pearls. The motto is engraved on the two crossed leaves at the base. A slight idea of its appearance may be gathered from the design above.

**DR. KOHLER'S OPINION.**—At the Jewish Chautauquo Summer Assembly Dr. Kohler maintained that it was Jewish law which made charity a human obligation. He also spoke of the meritorious work done by the Christian Church in developing charitable institutions. He considered that charity has ceased to be the mere outpouring of altruistic sentiment; it tended more and more to be a recognition of mutual interest and mutual responsibility. Personal service, personal care for, and personal interest in, the poor ever remained the *leitmotif* of Jewish charity, which combined tender compassion with wise provision and helpfulness.

The Jew, so long as he is healthy, is, as a rule, self-supporting and does not apply for assistance from charity organization societies. On the other hand, illness, real and occasionally imaginary, often compels him to seek relief from charity. Among the disease conditions which are frequently operative in reducing the Jew to dependency are to be mentioned the various forms of functional neuroses, the sequela of an acute disease, such as pneumonia, typhoid, rheumatism, etc., which leave the patient in a debilitated condition, so that he is unable to support himself for a few weeks, and often months, of convalescence. Consumption is a cause of dependency which demands the greatest attention on the part of charity organizations, particularly from the standpoint of prevention.

The speakers, all of whom were physicians, pointed out that the question was not altogether a medical one, that the diseases which resulted were in many instances due to the economic condition of the people, and they could only be cured with the improvement of the economic life.—*Chorities*.

KNOWING how often nurses find themselves in country places far from furnaces and running water, hot or cold, I felt I must send my latest experience on hot-water supplies to the *Alumna Magazine*.

In this shooting-box there is but one stove, the kitchen range; the rest of the house is heated with large, open wood-fires; no bathroom, we bathe in tin basins before our fires, and it is real luxury too.

We have an endless supply of boiling water by very simple means and a minimum of trouble.

Close to each fireplace is an earthenware churn holding about five gallons. It is kept filled with water, and as the fire burns all day, the water is not merely hot, but boiling. I fill hot-water bags, keep milk or broth hot by setting the saucepan into the top of the churn and putting the cover of the jar on the pan, the stone lid being heavy enough to keep the pan in the water.

When water is taken out the jar is at once replenished from a can of cold water kept for that purpose.

They can be put very close to the fire without danger of breaking. Long, narrow jars, such as the churns used here, are best for obvious reasons, but any crock usually found in country houses will do equally well.

At this moment the water is bubbling in my jar and the steam singing like a kettle.—A. Y. IRVINE, in *Johns Hopkins Alumna Magazine*.

**FIRST WINTER SCHOOL IN PHILANTHROPY.**—A winter course in philanthropy for professional and volunteer workers in institutions and charitable societies has been announced by the Committee on Philanthropic Education of the New York Charity Organization Society, cooperating with the Association for Improving